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Chairperson: Mr. Fonseca (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Brazil)

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In the absence of Ms. Intelmann (Estonia), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/61/486)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (A/61/286)

(b) International migration and development (A/60/871, A/61/187, A/61/73, A/61/91, A/61/170, A/61/230, A/61/315, A/61/316, A/61/321, A/61/343, A/61/345, A/61/346, A/61/506, A/61/515 and A/C.2/61/2)

(c) Culture and development (A/61/86, A/61/321 and A/61/378-S/2006/761)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/61/177)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/61/269, A/61/93, A/61/126 and A/61/181)

1. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) emphasized the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization. CARICOM wished to highlight, in particular, the significance of capacity-building through the provision of the requisite technical and financial assistance, in keeping with the support that needed to be given to developing countries in accessing, utilizing and developing appropriate know-how and technologies. Such support would also be particularly important in the areas of trade, FDI and technology transfer, especially for CARICOM given its high degree of openness and economic vulnerability.

2. In an increasingly globalized and integrated world economy, migration was unavoidable. As a major exporter of highly qualified labour, particularly teachers and nurses, the Caribbean region continued to face a number of migration-related challenges, including the highest rates of emigration of tertiary-level graduates. For that reason, the countries of the Caribbean advocated global dialogue to address migration issues and supported the Secretary-General's suggestion for a global consultative forum on migration to be established within the United Nations.

3. The member States of CARICOM reiterated their total condemnation of all corrupt practices, including the transfer of funds of illicit origin, and strongly urged the return of such assets to countries of origin. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption would enable the international community to work together to allow stolen assets to be recovered by the rightful owners. Some member States of CARICOM had already ratified the Convention, while others had begun their preparations to do so.

4. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), noted that the Community had been founded on principles of solidarity, collective self-reliance and interdependence. Those principles continued to motivate its mission to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and development, to be accomplished through efficient and productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration and good governance.

5. While globalization opened up economic opportunities, it also posed challenges. At national level, the economic prescriptions to developing countries that accompanied globalization were well known: removal of capital and exchange controls, privatization of State assets, deregulation of the labour market, and adoption of "sound" monetary and fiscal policies, which required States to cut public spending in order to reduce budget deficits as well as to reduce money supply through higher interest rates. However, that approach went against common sense, which demanded that expenditure on public services be increased in order to reduce poverty and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Miliennium Development Goals. In spite of the Community's implementation of those economic fundamentals, the subregion still found it difficult to attract FDI, which was the key to sustainable economic development and employment creation.

6. Economic growth was not always accompanied by poverty reduction. Indeed, the process of globalization had led to a worldwide increase in

inequality, poverty and marginalization. Contrary to the World Bank's 1990 prediction that the number of poor people would be reduced from 1.1 billion to 825 million between 1985 and 2000, current estimates were that the total number of people living in poverty had risen above 1.2 billion. Despite reported improvements in trading opportunities for developing countries arising from trade negotiations at various levels, not all countries had benefited equally and some of the poorest countries remained marginalized. The constraints included lack of market access and market entry barriers such as non-tariff measures and supply-side difficulties facing developing countries, especially the least developed countries. Robust measures to address supply-side constraints, in the form of increased aid flows and increased FDI, could assist developing countries effectively to integrate into the global economy. Technology transfer, fair trade and capacity-building were also elements that needed to be considered.

7. For many of the SADC countries, trade liberalization alone was not a panacea that would bring economic growth and development. Such countries needed to be assisted to build their trading capacity to enable them to compete globally. The Aid for Trade Initiative should enable developing countries to improve their trading capacities, adjust to changing rules and trade patterns and enhance their participation in global trade.

8. Global institutions must follow a rule-based system that applied a uniform set of principles to all countries and regions, taking into account the need for special and differential treatment for developing countries. Developing countries would only benefit fully from globalization once all concerned adhered to such a system. It called for the implementation of both the 2005 World Summit Outcome and General Assembly resolution 60/265 on development follow-up, as well as the completion of the Doha Development Round negotiations.

9. The 2005 World Summit Outcome had stressed the crucial role of science and technology in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis in November 2005, had further highlighted the need to establish an inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone could create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge in order to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

10. Globalization was characterized by an international technological divide, which was one of the causes of the rapidly expanding socio-economic gap between the developed and the developing countries. The Secretary-General had recommended in his report on the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization (A/61/286) that policies on science, technology and innovation had ultimately to be devised by countries according to their own unique needs, their priorities and their stages of development. Updating of national policies in accordance with the evolving nature of technology and scientific advancement would enable developing countries to bridge the digital divide. SADC called on the international community to assist the subregion to invest in science and technology-related education and training. The global rules governing scientific knowledge needed to be flexible so that scientific learning and application through research and development could be fostered. Industrial development would enable the subregion to add value to its raw materials and realize increased returns on the global market, while technology transfer to the subregion would improve productivity and contribute to sustainable development.

11. SADC welcomed the ongoing global dialogue on international migration and development. International migration was a complex and evolving phenomenon that offered as many challenges as opportunities. SADC needed to manage international migration so as to fruitfully harness and maximize its development benefits. It therefore urged that more effort be expended on helping the developing countries to build institutional capacity through the implementation of existing commitments from past United Nations conferences and summits. A follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should be held under the auspices of an intergovernmental body such as the General Assembly, in order to maintain the momentum created in September 2006.

12. The SADC subregion currently faced a shortage of physicians, nurses and teachers as they left for developed countries. Since those professionals were critical to the proper functioning of any public sector and to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium

Development Goals, ways should be found to mitigate the subregion's loss.

13. International migration could not be managed unilaterally, which meant that partnerships and bilateral agreements were greatly needed. To that end, SADC member States shared a common set of goals covering enhancing the development impact of international migration, ensuring that migration occurred mainly through legal channels and also ensuring the protection of the human rights of migrants and preventing their exploitation. A SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Free Movement of Persons was at an advanced stage of negotiation.

14. **Ms. Tufail** (Pakistan) said that the High-level Dialogue had demonstrated the seriousness of international migration and development issues and moved the migration and development debate to a higher plane, illustrating the desire of the widest United Nations membership to continue global dialogue on international migration and development. Throughout human history, migration had been a courageous expression of an individual's will to explore new horizons and to live a better life. Today migration was an important part of the development debate, as it involved the growth of people, economies and countries. One of the basic needs of migrants was for efficient remittance of their earnings to their families in the home country. There was an obvious need for regulatory frameworks to facilitate remittances at low costs, and for creation of incentives for their productive utilization, in line with countries' development priorities and needs.

15. While remittances from migrants were helpful, their overall impact on development had not been substantiated. Remittances should therefore continue to supplement, not supplant, development assistance. There was also a need to engage the diasporas and utilize their expertise acquired abroad, in order to counter the impact of brain drain and gain benefit from brain circulation and skill development. Adequate and transparent mechanisms were needed to channel migration in a safe, legal, humane and orderly manner, in order to combat irregular migration and prevent enabling conditions for organized crime and exploitation of people. The protection of the rights of migrants and victims of trafficking was of great concern to Pakistan.

16. Pakistan had consistently advocated a scientific approach to deal with international migration and development issues, one that relied on comprehensive and analytical studies to examine the contributions that migrants made to the development of both sending and receiving States. That was also in line with the evidence-based approach advocated by the Secretary-General in his report, which was critical to demystifying the debate and myths created around international migration.

17. Without the requisite machinery and institutional support, it would be difficult to bring about the much-needed coordination on migration issues. The arrangement, whatever its eventual form or shape, should be agreed intergovernmentally through a transparent and inclusive process, be based on existing arrangements in order to avoid duplication and overlap and report to the United Nations. One solution might be to allow the Global Migration Group to meet intergovernmentally under the Economic and Social Council. Pakistan had also taken note of the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a global consultative forum and Belgium's offer to host its first meeting.

18. **Mr. Sardenberg** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of MERCOSUR, reported on the measures taken by that grouping on the topic of migration, which had been a concern of MERCOSUR since its foundation in 1991. The Santiago Declaration, while recognizing the right of States to secure their frontiers, laid down certain fundamental rights for migrants. It promoted initiatives to facilitate migratory flows, since regularization of migration, rather than persecution of migrants, was the only way to ensure their full integration into society in the destination country. It also stressed the importance of reunifying families, as a contribution to the stability of migrants.

19. The countries of MERCOSUR had signed agreements permitting each other's nationals to live, study and work on each other's territory in conditions identical to those enjoyed by their nationals. MERCOSUR and its associated States, Bolivia and Chile, had also taken initiatives to control illicit traffic in migrants and trafficking in persons. They included awareness-raising campaigns, to be launched simultaneously in all the countries of the region, compilation of relevant information and mechanisms for regularizing the situation of victims.

20. Following the Sixth South American Conference on Migration, held in Paraguay, the Declaration of Asunción had stressed the need for unrestricted observance of the human rights of migrants, the close links between migration and development and the importance of remittances as private flows of funds, which must not, however, be regarded as a substitute for ODA. It had also stressed the importance of the developed countries' including the variable of migration in other spheres of international negotiations, and had called on destination States to put in place policies for the social inclusion of migrants, at the same time as policies outlawing trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking in migrants and organ trafficking.

21. At the 30th meeting of its Council, in July 2006, the Presidents of members of MERCOSUR and its associated States had reached agreement on a programme to regularize migration between their countries and on the verification of travel documents of minors. Suggesting that the agreements reached within MERCOSUR could act as a model for other countries, he drew attention to the contribution of MERCOSUR to the debate on migration, described in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/321).

22. Speaking as the representative of Brazil on item 55 (d), he said that several international studies indicated that corruption was much more than an ethical problem. It hindered development, not only by diverting resources meant to address deep-seated social problems but also by weakening the credibility of public institutions intended to promote sustainable growth with social justice.

23. Progress in the fight against corruption at the international level was demonstrated by the signing by as many as 140 countries of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as of 20 June 2006. Progress had also been made at the national level, as an increasing number of financial institutions were implementing comprehensive due diligence and vigilance regimes to counter illicit transfers of resources. But further international cooperation was needed to ensure that efficiency, transparency and accountability existed throughout the public sectors in both developed and developing countries, particularly with regard to asset recovery.

24. Caution was called for in equating corruption with lack of governance, since there were numerous cases of corruption in solid democracies. Whereas corruption must be combated using all means, including external support, excessive focus on it would limit the broader discussion on governance. It would thus be unwise to halt all development cooperation until the fight on corruption had been won, for that might lead to added instability or more repressive Governments. Instead, measures should be taken to ensure that international cooperation resources reached the intended destination and were not diverted to illicit purposes. Corruption was a two-way street, since the possibility of profitable investment of the proceeds of corruption in various global financial institutions increased the temptation to divert public resources.

25. International cooperation was at the core of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. However, such cooperation faced three major obstacles: differences in national judicial systems; domestic legal constraints on the collection and admission in court of judicial evidence; and the need to respect individual rights. Those challenges had to be faced realistically if progress was to be made in the joint effort to curb corruption.

26. **Mr. Muffadal** (Sudan) said that his delegation looked forward to the establishment of a follow-up mechanism to the High-level Dialogue. International migration not only had an economic dimension but also served to bring peoples and civilizations closer. It affected not only the individual migrants but the societies of the country of origin and the host country. United Nations agencies and their international partners needed to address the root causes of migration, such as poverty, war and natural disasters, and also to work for better integration of migrants into destination societies in order to maximize the benefits of international migration while mitigating its adverse effects.

27. In the Sudan, a long history of migration had created unity in diversity. But the recent increase in immigration into the Sudan from the South coupled with a decline in emigration had had consequences for the country's resources, stability and social fabric that were beyond its capacity to address. His country appealed for assistance in stemming the brain drain, combating illegal immigration and human smuggling and maintaining contacts between immigrants and their homelands. The international community could address the root causes of migration by intensifying cooperation with the Government of the Sudan for

peace in all parts of the country, as well as for sustainable development, poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Sudan also hoped for an end to unilateral sanctions that placed restrictions on Sudanese immigration to certain countries and on remittances from Sudanese workers to their homeland, which were the country's major source of hard currency.

28. **Mr. Dall'Oglio** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) described migration as one of the defining phenomena of the present time, which in 2006 had attracted increased political attention as a result of the catalytic effect of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly had conducted in September 2006. IOM had been deeply involved in supporting preparatory activities for the Dialogue, promoting reflection and debate through a series of events co-organized with a variety of partners. He acknowledged the cooperation of national authorities, United Nations departments, agencies, programmes and funds, as well as many other regional and non-governmental organizations, and also the private sector.

29. The High-level Dialogue had promoted debate on a wide range of crucial issues, offering a rare opportunity for an open, non-confrontational global discussion on ways to enhance the positive effects of migration and minimize its negative consequences. Many of its conclusions echoed the key messages that IOM itself had been sending during the lead-up period, and the Organization looked forward to helping make the follow-up a success. In that connection, three areas would be particularly important.

30. The first related to stepped-up measures to make migration work for development, using two main approaches: mainstreaming migration into development planning agendas and building capacity to deal more effectively with the global labour market. IOM was pursuing the first approach in a few pilot countries. In Ghana, for instance, it was assisting the Government to reflect migration issues in national development strategy, specifically the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. It was also working to mobilize other development cooperation partners to give priority to the development of tools whereby Governments could integrate migration issues into poverty reduction strategies. With regard to the second approach, IOM had presented at the High-level Dialogue a conceptual mechanism to facilitate capacity-building for safe, legal and orderly participation in the global labour market, and was currently working with several partners on refining the concept.

31. The second area was inter-agency coordination. Although IOM was the sole intergovernmental organization with an across-the-board migration mandate, it recognized the need for partnership among many agencies and entities involved in various aspects of migration, in accordance with their areas of expertise. With that objective, in 2003 IOM had been among the co-founders of the Geneva Migration Group, comprising six agencies with an interest in migration issues. In early 2006, with the encouragement of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Geneva Migration Group had been expanded and renamed the Global Migration Group. Such a coordination mechanism could play a crucial role in enhancing policy coherence and optimizing programming complementarity to support the beneficial aspects of migration. It would be helpful if United Nations Member States would continue to acknowledge the work of the Group and encourage its further strengthening.

32. The third important area was intergovernmental cooperation. The High-level Dialogue had underlined the need for strengthening cooperation among Governments at all levels, with regional organizations and consultative processes being recognized as useful forums for a sustained dialogue on migration and development. Likewise, the International Dialogue on Migration, launched by the IOM Council in 2001, was acknowledged as having helpful potential. The Secretary-General had made an important proposal to create a consultative, non-binding forum for debating migration at the global level. As several Member States had acknowledged during the High-level Dialogue, it would appear sensible to associate the Global Migration Group agencies collectively and individually with that endeavour, and to ask them to contribute their respective technical expertise. At the same time, the global forum could give the GMG agencies a platform to present their migration-related activities to a wider constituency than their own governing bodies.

33. The deliberations within the Second Committee offered a unique opportunity to translate the goodwill which had emerged from the High-level Dialogue into guidelines for action, in order to help all involved to

move from words to concrete, results-oriented activities.

34. **Mr. Lee** Tae-woo (Republic of Korea) said that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had heightened awareness among Governments of the development potential of migration, which could substantially benefit both countries of origin and countries of destination. In order to make full use of the benefits of remittances, transnational transaction fees had to be reduced. In addition, appropriate financial systems needed to be introduced to enhance productivity in countries of origin.

35. Migration also had negative effects, however. It could generate social problems, political tensions and security challenges. Moreover, its costs and benefits were not evenly distributed, either among countries or among social groups within them. To maximize the benefits of migration and contain the social disruption it caused, comprehensive and coherent migration policies must be devised in all concerned countries, with due consideration of the specific situation in each country. International cooperation for that purpose was crucial. The recently established Global Migration Group should serve to enhance coordination and cooperation among international organizations working in the field of migration and development. At the same time, regional efforts, such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, should be embraced.

36. With regard to the issue of corruption, his delegation welcomed the swift entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the rapid increase in the number of States parties. The Republic of Korea was preparing to ratify the Convention. In recent years, his country's Government had dedicated itself to fighting corruption, implementing a variety of policies to increase the transparency and efficiency of the public sector, including the landmark Korean Pact on Anti-Corruption and Transparency. Those efforts would be stepped up in the future. The Republic of Korea stood ready to share its strategies and experience and to cooperate with other countries in their anti-corruption efforts.

37. **Mr. Sambo** (Nigeria) observed that, six years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the high hopes for globalization remained unfulfilled. Its uneven impact on the economies of developing countries was generally recognized. Neither had subsequent international summits had any significant impact thus far. More attention was needed to the assessment of implementation roles, responsibilities and results. Within the United Nations system, coordination, coherence and consistency must be enhanced. The General Assembly must maintain its universality and be more visible in its decision-making, and the Economic and Social Council must, under a stronger mandate, maintain its role of coordination and follow-up to international conferences, while development partners must continue to honour their commitments. At the same time, international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes must be reformed to give developing countries more voice and participation.

38. Turning to the issue of migration and development, he said that widening economic and social gaps between countries, inequitable benefits from globalization, internal conflict and insecurity were among the factors propelling international migration. While migration made it possible for destination countries to meet their labour demands, it also deprived countries of origin of highly skilled personnel. Moreover, as had been widely discussed during the High-level Dialogue, migration could be associated with human rights violations. Nigeria recognized the right of a country to determine its migration policies, but was opposed to any form of maltreatment of migrants, including exploitation, forceful repatriation and other dehumanizing treatment. Countries must resist the temptation of xenophobia or discrimination under the guise of measures to ensure national security. The Nigerian Government had taken several measures in relation to migration, including the adoption of a national development strategy which sought to eradicate poverty and the appointment of special advisers on diaspora matters, human and child labour and trafficking, and migration and humanitarian affairs. Nigeria welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a consultative forum to enhance a coherent and well-coordinated migration strategy at all levels. The forum would provide an umbrella for States and other relevant stakeholders to continue the dialogue on migration issues in the absence of an institutional arrangement within the United Nations system.

39. With regard to the issue of culture and development, there was a growing consensus that development strategies had to be embedded in the cultural traditions of each society. Cultural diversity and dialogue had a significant role to play in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

40. Nigeria welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and joined the Secretary-General in appealing to countries that had not yet done so to accede to the Convention. His delegation also welcomed the establishment of the Global Compact and the addition of the tenth principle, actively involving the private sector in anti-corruption efforts. Corruption was a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation, since it diverted resources from activities to enhance economic development and endangered the stability and security of societies. His country had made strenuous efforts to implement the Convention by strengthening its institutional and legal capacity to prevent the diversion and laundering of assets and facilitate the return and disposition of such assets. Like other developing countries, however, Nigeria needed technical support and capacity-building to further its anti-corruption efforts.

41. **Ms. Halliyadde** (Sri Lanka) said that international migration was increasingly being perceived as a force that could contribute to development. Clearly, migrants made important contributions to the economic prosperity of their host countries, but the flow of financial, technological, social and human capital back to countries of origin was also having a significant impact on poverty reduction and economic development in those countries. Indeed, remittances from migrants were a major source of capital for developing countries.

42. Globalization had increased the mobility of labour, giving rise to new patterns of migration, the magnitude and complexity of which made migration a high-priority issue for both developing and developed countries. Policies in developed countries continued to favour the admission of skilled workers rather than low-skilled workers. Developing countries could ill afford such a brain drain, however, as the loss of trained manpower affected the level and quality of education and health care in the country of origin.

43. The most pressing issue in relation to migration was that of safeguarding the social, labour and human rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status. Women, who now made up as much as 80 per cent of the migrant population in some countries, were at especially high risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, as they frequently ended up in low-status, low-wage jobs and often worked in unregulated sectors of the economy. Women migrants were also particularly vulnerable to human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation.

44. It was important for destination countries to address demands for public services, education, health care and housing for migrants. At the same time, responsibility must be shared between countries of destination and countries of origin. International cooperation was more than ever needed to establish a normative framework acceptable to all countries concerned in order to better manage migratory movements and protect international migrants. There were already international conventions which provided a sound framework of principles and good practices with respect to labour migration. In that regard, Sri Lanka called on all States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The International Labour Organization Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration could also serve as a valuable guide. In addition, in order to curb illegal migration, opportunities must be provided for legal migration. To maximize the benefits and contain the social disruption caused by migration, comprehensive and coherent migration policies must be devised in all countries concerned, with due consideration of the specific situation of each country. The recently established Global Migration Group should serve to enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among international organizations working in the field of migration and development. Her delegation underscored the importance of continuing international dialogue at all levels aimed at finding solutions to all issues pertaining to migration and migrants' rights.

45. **Mr. Blas** (Philippines) said that, as a country with a sizeable portion of its population working overseas, the Philippines attached particular importance to the issue of migration. His delegation shared many of the views put forward by the Secretary-General in his report on migration and development (A/60/871), in particular his call for intergovernmental cooperation on international migration. Migration was an enduring phenomenon with multidimensional

implications which required sound management at the global level in order to have positive effects for both sending and receiving countries, as well as to address its negative effects for sending countries. The Global Commission on International Migration had made 33 recommendations to strengthen national, regional and global governance of international migration, which the recently concluded High-level Dialogue had taken duly into account. His delegation called for a continuing process of consultation between and among sending and receiving countries in order to maintain the momentum of the dialogue. Ideally, that process should take place under the auspices of the United Nations. However, if the prospects for the early evolution of a United Nations mechanism were stalled by tedious and protracted negotiations, a more feasible option for carrying on an informal process of consultations would be to proceed with an open-ended global forum, which might eventually be mainstreamed within the United Nations.

46. The Philippines had established several agencies that catered to the needs of Philippine migrant workers, their protection and the maximization of their contributions to the development of their host countries. His country's institutional and legal framework had been cited by United Nations agencies as a possible model for similarly situated countries.

47. The promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, whether documented or otherwise, could not be separated from the development dimension of migration. The Philippines called on all Member States that had not yet done so to affirm the importance of migration and development by acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

48. The Philippines had co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 60/206 on facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrants' remittances. Much work remained to be done in that regard, and the consensus of the international community would be very useful for migrants.

49. **Mr. Alizadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that measures should be taken to follow up actively on the High-level Dialogue, with the participation of all stakeholders, including Member States and relevant civil society and international organizations, in order to minimize the negative consequences of international migration and maximize its benefits. Although international migration occurred essentially as a result of the decisions taken by individuals and families, it affected the relationship among the States concerned. A realistic and global vision was thus needed to address the issue, with due attention to the root causes of the phenomenon. Globalization had certainly contributed to the movement of people around the globe, but poverty, social exclusion, unemployment, lack of adequate investment, imbalances and inequalities in the international trading system, uncontrolled population growth, violence, discrimination, and the widening gap in well-being were among the other factors fuelling migration. The increase in the number of female migrants and other vulnerable social groups should also be a source of concern for the international community.

50. Virtually all countries were affected by migration, whether as origin, destination or transit countries. Migration was not just a South-North issue; it also occurred between countries of the South. Individual countries would clearly not be able to manage the phenomenon in an appropriate way without bilateral, regional and international cooperation. Building national capacities, particularly in developing countries, through the establishment of necessary infrastructures, the creation or modification of relevant legal regimes, the formulation of national strategies on migration, the exchange of information, experiences and best practices, and the allocation of adequate resources for such measures would help the international community meet the new challenges posed by migration.

51. Migrants obviously contributed to development in destination countries but also, through the transfer of technical knowledge and capital to their countries of origin, advanced development in that group of countries. Therefore, removal of the obstacles that migrants faced to the transfer of knowledge and expertise from destination countries, facilitating and lowering the cost of remittances and enhancing the safety of migrants were crucial to the process of development.

52. Iran, as a country of origin, destination and transit for migrants, had taken various measures to address migration issues, including several training courses on the management of migration, with support from the International Organization for Migration; enactment of a new law criminalizing human

trafficking and establishing punishments for perpetrators; establishment of a national cooperation mechanism involving several ministries; and, at the regional level, participation in the ministerial meeting of Greece, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, held in December 2005, on fighting illegal migration and trafficking in persons.

53. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that globalization offered a unique opportunity for San Marino to achieve economic and social growth. His country realized that it must focus on long-term factors such as open markets, investment in financial resources, multiculturalism, declining industrial production costs and increased productivity, which must be combined with the development of a universal, fair and rule-based competitive environment.

54. San Marino was also well aware of the need to implement coherent and consistent economic policies and to practice good governance and of the importance of State responsibility and accountability. International growth must not be hindered by protectionism or by the quasi-monopolistic actions of certain multinational companies. His country strongly supported the transfer of knowledge and technology, which could speed global growth and improve living standards. It also welcomed stronger planning by the United Nations in the areas of trade, capital flows, intellectual property rights and migration, and supported regional and global cooperation among developing countries through the active participation of all sectors of civil society and the private sector in national policymaking. San Marino was not afraid to invest in the short term because it firmly believed that it could achieve a number of long-term benefits as a result of a fair and balanced globalization process.

55. **Mr. Manor** (Israel), said that Israel, as a country that absorbed immigrants from all over the world and committed substantial resources towards their integration, had a wealth of experience to offer other countries facing similar challenges. Its expertise in training could also be used to enhance the coordination of migration and development policies. Israel had significant experience in the area of international cooperation and the development of international partnerships. It was willing to enter into further bilateral, multilateral and regional partnerships and share its expertise in immigration, which could be adapted to suit the needs of any country.

56. Israel's Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre worked with IOM and Israel's Centre for International Migration and Integration to provide courses on migration-related topics, and in September 2005 the three institutions had jointly organized a major international conference for women leaders, focused on issues relating to migration, gender and the diaspora within the development context.

57. The conference had culminated in the Haifa Declaration, which asked the United Nations Special Adviser on Gender and Advancement of Women to bring its conclusions, recommendations and report to the attention of the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on international migration and development. In order to implement the recommendations, the specific actions to be taken should include gendered profile studies on diasporas in countries of destination, gendered household surveys of the beneficiaries of remittances in countries of origin, joint actions by countries of origin and destination to engage women diaspora leaders in the planning and execution of development programmes, research studies to examine the impact on family and society of changes in gender roles resulting from female migration, and the sharing of knowledge and information among countries of origin and destination on best practices relating to gender, migration and development issues.

58. **Mr. Baird** (Australia) said that his country's development owed much to its success in harnessing the benefits of migration. It was accepting larger numbers of temporary migrants, and migration to Australia had benefited countries of origin, including developing countries, not least by providing opportunities for income generation. Experience had taught Australia that the benefits of migration were maximized when it was well managed, which meant that it should be facilitated through legal channels, in a legal, safe and orderly fashion, with a view to protecting not only the legitimate interests of States but also migrants' human rights.

59. Managing migration, while simultaneously enhancing its developmental benefits, required well-designed national migration policies backed by an effective administrative capacity. Maximizing national capacities was therefore of central importance. Australia agreed with the Global Commission on International Migration that the international community should support the efforts of States to formulate and implement national migration policies

through the contribution of resources, appropriate expertise and training. Where appropriate, policies to improve national migration capacity might be integrated into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies.

60. States' capacities to manage migration varied, and were not necessarily related to their overall level of development. Their migration goals also varied in accordance with their economic, demographic, social and humanitarian objectives. The Bali Process was an excellent example of how countries of origin, transit and destination with varying capacities and policy objectives could cooperate on practical and achievable outcomes. Regional approaches were the most effective form of international cooperation on migration.

61. With respect to the Secretary-General's proposal for a global consultative forum on international migration and development, Australia believed that the success of any new forum depended on whether it could add value to the work of existing bodies and processes. If the forum was established, it should include a focus on capacity-building in migration management and use the significant contributions of existing regional consultative processes. Australia favoured bringing together key actors from the various regional processes to facilitate an exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in policy and operational manners. Any such process would need to involve small-group, subject-specific exchanges among expert participants which would allow for detailed and in-depth discussion. It would also need to draw on the considerable expertise of IOM, avoid duplicating existing structures and activities, and avoid making too many demands on States' time and resources.

62. **Mr. Lomba** (Gabon) said that his delegation generally supported the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development (A/60/871), especially those which emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation and continued dialogue. As a result of unchecked globalization and inequality of opportunities, the phenomenon of migration had divided the world into countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination.

63. The forms taken by migration were diversifying, with all sectors of society being affected, with women accounting for almost half of all international migrants, and with young people seeking better prospects elsewhere in increasing numbers. African countries had reacted to the problem of migration and development by adopting a common position and a strategic framework, which together represented an initial step towards a regional approach.

64. His delegation welcomed the global vision that had emerged from the recent High-level Dialogue, which had highlighted the link between migration and development and identified numerous opportunities that could be offered, through appropriate policies, to countries of origin, transit and destination as well as to migrants and their families. It had also identified the challenges to be faced, notably those relating to the economic and social integration of immigrants, the promotion and respect of their human rights, and the safeguarding of their dignity as human beings.

65. The Dialogue should be pursued under the auspices of the United Nations, and his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a global consultative forum on international migration and development. International migration could make a genuine contribution to development if it was well managed. However, the High-level Dialogue had shown the limitations of many bilateral, regional and international initiatives. The lack of harmonized statistics constituted a major obstacle to progress on the issue, and increased cooperation at all levels was needed. The problem of international migration should be given the same attention as the other issues addressed by the United Nations under its reform programme, particularly in relation to development.

66. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti) also welcomed the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development (A/60/871), which provided an excellent overview of the multifaceted aspects of international migration as well as the efforts undertaken by the international community to confront the issue. Her own country provided an excellent demonstration of the link between migration and development. Remittances by its nationals living abroad had amounted to 30 per cent of its GDP in 2004, helping to reduce poverty and, in some cases, enabling children to achieve a higher level of education.

67. The Haitian diaspora had contributed to the country's private sector, notably by promoting business

and financial contacts with destination countries, and the Government was currently exploring ways to develop that process. However, the migration phenomenon also had negative consequences for Haiti's development, which were notably manifested in the loss of skills and in the limitations imposed on the volume and quantity of social services. Many migrant Haitian workers had been contributing to the economies of certain host countries for many years without being given the opportunity to regularize their status. As a result, they were unable to send remittances home through legal channels, having to resort instead to informal methods. They were also subjected to arbitrary detention and mass repatriations. In that context, her delegation welcomed the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's report that existing bilateral agreements with the major destination countries should be reviewed and new agreements drawn up.

68. In order to maximize the positive synergies between migration and development, her Government recommended seven specific actions. First, steps should be taken to facilitate the migration of temporary and seasonal workers. Second, the situation of the many immigrants living in host countries with an irregular status should be regularized. Third, migrants' rights and interests should be protected. Fourth, steps should be taken to retain or secure the return of highly qualified migrants. Fifth, action should be taken to benefit from the remittances and skills of the diaspora. Sixth, the economic and social conditions in regions with significant emigration pressure should be improved. Seventh, a population policy should be developed and implemented.

69. Haiti would take steps to implement those recommendations and to increase its participation in the relevant regional and global dialogues. It would also gladly participate in the actions to be taken under the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue, and believed that priority should be given to the following measures: organization of regular meetings on the regional consultative processes, provision of increased support for and participation in global coordination mechanisms; attention by the international community to strengthening capacities for integrated policies and national, bilateral and regional actions; increased participation of the private sector and civil society in dialogue and cooperation at all levels; and development of the tools to improve the balance between supply and demand in the labour force at the national, regional and global levels.

70. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda) said that science and technology played a crucial role as a strong driving force for economic growth and development, and the rapidly expanding gap between rich and poor nations was a reflection of the international technology gap that separated them. Developing countries, especially the least developed ones, lacked the necessary capacities to access, disseminate and utilize scientific and technological knowledge, most of which was generated in developed countries and protected by intellectual property rights.

71. International policies should promote the efforts of poor countries to develop a sound scientific foundation, including human talent and the infrastructure to support the transfer of technology and encourage the application of scientific knowledge for development. There was also a need to foster international partnerships with a view to bringing the benefits of information and communication technology to developing countries, many of which were also facing the challenge posed by low levels of investment in science and technology education. A concerted effort should be made at the regional level to develop the necessary institutions and infrastructures. Within the context of South-South cooperation, the potential to develop institutional capacities to promote science and technology had not been exploited, and the United Nations should play a leading role in that regard.

72. The link between migration and development had recently resurfaced as an issue of global interest. The problem of the brain drain had continued to grow, and the current phenomenon of international migration reflected a globalization process that had brought tremendous opportunities for rich countries but had failed to provide jobs where the labour force was located. As globalization proceeded, international migration would continue and even intensify. The challenge for the global community was to adopt migration policies and measures that responded to the needs of countries of origin and destination while also respecting migrants' rights. Such policies should not only respond to short-term and unilateral needs, but also define long-term and sustainable policies. Countries of destination should not interpret their humanitarian obligations on the basis of their economic needs.

73. The recent High-level Dialogue should encourage cooperation and dialogue between countries of origin and destination. Source countries should conclude bilateral agreements with the major destination countries and offer their citizens a certain amount of protection abroad. In order to counteract the brain drain, poor countries should promote contacts between the diaspora communities and their countries of origin. They should also improve working conditions at home and disseminate information about legal migration. Emigrants should be permitted to return home and re-enter countries of destination and, above all, sustainable development should be taken into account in the design of policies to manage migration.

74. **Ms. Zubčević** (Croatia) welcomed the Secretary-General's report on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/61/269), which noted the strong economic performance of those economies in 2004 and 2005. However, high unemployment rates and low labour-force participation rates persisted in many such countries, leading to uneven development and wealth patterns. Thus economic growth was not enough if it was not supported by structural and institutional reforms. If those countries were to complete their transition process and integrate more effectively into the world economy, improvements must be made in areas such as education, innovation, science, labour markets, economic infrastructures, the overall macroeconomic environment, capital flows and financial services.

75. Croatia had achieved macroeconomic stability and was working to improve its creditworthiness, trade balance and investment climate, as well as the foreign investment environment. Challenges remained in the area of fiscal policy, which must become more flexible, and there was a need to develop a capital market. However, Croatia had very solid relations with international financial institutions. In order to build on those positive trends, it must introduce further structural changes at the national level. The process of reforming the private sector and the education, health and judicial systems was already under way. Regional integration was also crucial, and Croatia had made significant progress in that regard. At its current growth rate, it would transform itself from a net aid recipient to a net aid donor by 2013. It was necessary to sustain and further strengthen the Monterrey Consensus, if the countries with economies in transition were to achieve their development goals. Croatia would continue to advocate a stronger voice for those countries in the international financial institutions.

76. **Mr. Gerus** (Belarus) said that the high GDP growth in countries with economies in transition, when measured by the standards of the world economy and the fact that many Central and Eastern European countries were joining the European Union were becoming a pretext for an unjustifiably low level of attention and resources to support their development from organizations of the United Nations system, the industrially developed States and the international community as a whole. That was not surprising, since there were no nationals of Eastern European countries in senior posts in the Secretariat and the region was chronically underrepresented in high-level groups dealing with United Nations reform. Perhaps that was why the report of the Secretary-General was so short on specific, substantial recommendations for improving the quality of the assistance that the United Nations gave to such countries.

77. Belarus therefore requested UNDP, UNICEF, UNCTAD and the Economic Commission for Europe to consider opportunities for optimizing their activity in the region and to be more proactive in bringing the true situation in such countries to the notice of Member States. Few were aware that there were 125 million people living in poverty in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and that one fifth of them were children; few realized that progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals relating to infant and maternal mortality and access to education was generally worse than in Latin America and many Asian countries; and not enough people knew that primary school enrolment and the social, economic and transport infrastructure were all getting worse. That was because the countries concerned had undergone the most massive socio-economic transformation in the history of the United Nations, were still restoring their economies after the slumps of the 1990s and were still recovering from the armed conflicts that had followed the break-up of the Soviet Union.

78. The 10 countries of the region that were still negotiating to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) were being required to assume a burden of obligations not being borne by current members at comparable levels of development. Integration into the multilateral trading system under just conditions

played a key role not only in resolving socio-economic problems but also in ensuring full integration into the world economy.

79. Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system had no right to ignore such problems: financial and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition must be continued, but it must be better organized, better planned and better targeted to countries in greatest need. That was the purpose of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.11, co-sponsored by Belarus, on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy. His delegation hoped that the text would receive the traditional broad support, and thanked the Group of 77 and China for including assistance to countries with economies in transition in certain other draft resolutions.

80. **Ms. Osman** (Switzerland) said that the United Nations was the ideal forum for reviewing certain aspects of international migration, especially in terms of its links to development. The High-level Dialogue had strengthened international cooperation and opened up innovative and effective ways of combining migration and development, but it was only one stage in the process. Apart from showing the potential of migration, it also underscored the challenges associated with the phenomenon.

81. Greater attention should be paid to the integration of migration into development policies and efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly with respect to the protection and assistance rendered to the victims of trafficking. Noting that women accounted for half the number of international migrants, she said that the international community had only recently grasped the importance of the potential of migrant women, and of their need for further protection. Switzerland hoped for continued dialogue between States and was convinced that the various regional and international platforms and initiatives under discussion presented opportunities for frank and fruitful exchanges on migration and development.

82. The accumulation of ill-gotten assets abroad undermined the integrity of international financial centres and weakened efforts to combat financial crime and money-laundering. The phenomenon of illicit assets held by politically exposed persons involved the fight against corruption, money-laundering and organized crime, development and governance, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation, as well as sovereignty and immunity. In recognition of those challenges, Switzerland had organized informal seminars for government experts aimed at improving coordination among them. Based on that experience, real progress had been achieved in returning assets of illicit origin to their countries of origin, in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

83. **Mr. Nikitov** (Ukraine) said that innovation derived from scientific research and new technologies was the major driving force of long-term economic growth and social well-being. The report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development had addressed the core of the issues involved, and the need for international cooperation in enhancing the development potential.

84. Ukraine had introduced measures to curb illegal migration at the national and international levels, and had given priority to the monitoring of migration processes and to relations with Euro-Atlantic institutions. Having ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Government had adopted anti-corruption strategies that included strict public control over budget expenditures and governmental structures, decent labour conditions for civil servants, and increased oversight and enforcement.

85. He noted the progress achieved by the economies in transition and their integration into the world economy, largely attributable to their sound domestic policies and strategies. Ukraine had progressed in its conversion from a planned to a market economy, and its economic development had been enhanced by reconstruction of the national financial sphere, price liberalization and diminished administrative interference, State regulation of natural monopolies and development of private ownership and private enterprise. However, in facing its challenges, Ukraine needed continued international support. Trade as a major vehicle for economic integration was of particular relevance to Ukraine, which was in the process of acceding to the World Trade Organization.

86. He appealed to the United Nations, its specialized agencies, regional commissions and international financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the transition economies in order to secure their full integration into the world economy. Ukraine was willing to cooperate with interested delegations on the formulation of a draft resolution to that effect.

87. **Mr. Fomba** (Mali) said that migration had assumed new dimensions related to its impact on resident populations. In the aftermath of the High-level Dialogue, the international community recognized the benefits of international migratory movements on development, as well as the need for States to cooperate in establishing partnerships with all stakeholders.

88. As a country of emigrants, immigrants and, with a population in transit, Mali fully subscribed to the conclusions and recommendations of the High-level Dialogue, and had established frameworks for coordination with countries of destination, including banking and other initiatives. For countries such as Mali, international migration must be viewed in relation to factors such as subsidies, which impoverished Malian cotton-growers and forced them out of the country. Instead of exporting more products in which it had comparative advantages, Mali found itself exporting its manpower, thereby undermining its chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the agreed deadline.

89. In recognition of the universal respect for human rights, Mali believed that the men and women who tried to escape a life of misery must be treated humanely, and that their flight should not lead to further suffering or death. That did not mean support for illegal migration, against which the Government had done its utmost to fight.

90. **Mr. Ghigo** (Malta) said that irregular migration had continued to test the economic, social and security capacity of Malta, which had received an unprecedented influx of illegal immigrants over the previous year. There had been a number of humanitarian, economic and social repercussions that affected the immigrants themselves and challenged the daily lives of the local population. He reiterated the need for international support in fighting criminal organizations that derived benefits from illegal immigration while endangering the lives of immigrants. Although there might not be a single solution to the complex issue of irregular migration, it constituted the unacceptable face of international migration.

91. **Mr. Kruljevic** (Serbia) said that the transition economies had improved their performance and that relations with the European Union had played a crucial role in shaping a broad process of integrating their economies into the world economy. The implementation of reforms to establish market-based economies and the development of reliable State institutions had been spurred by links to the European Union. Furthermore, a clear European perspective in areas such as capacity-building and reform of the judiciary could have positive repercussions and bring political stability to South-Eastern Europe. For those reasons, Serbia expected to resume negotiations on stabilization and association with the European Union as soon as possible.

92. He was pleased that the Secretary-General's report in document A/61/269 outlined the progress achieved over the previous two years, in terms of market reform, privatization, enterprise governance, competition, and trade and capital account liberalization. Gross domestic product and exports were increasing steadily, while the foreign trade deficit had decreased, with encouraging signs of a downturn in inflation. In addition, legislation was being strengthened in a number of areas, including foreign investment, profits tax and corruption. Nevertheless, high unemployment, poverty and the situation of refugees and displaced persons posed grave problems. Serbia therefore welcomed international support and FDI in tackling them.

93. Regional cooperation and the establishment of a free trade zone were of the utmost importance. Consequently, Serbia was disappointed by the adoption of certain trade policies that defied attempts at regional economic integration, and hoped that such obstacles to trade would be removed.

94. An adequate policy mix was needed to gradually move trade structures from low to higher value added sectors, and there was further need for the United Nations to provide policy advice and technical assistance.

95. **Ms. Detaille** (Belgium) noted the broad support of the international community for the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a global forum for migration and development, and was pleased that Belgium's offer to host the first session of the forum in 2007 had been accepted. Preparations were already under way in Belgium, and further details concerning the meeting would be provided as soon as they became available. The preparatory process would be transparent and open and the work of the forum should be decisive, operational and action-oriented.

96. **Ms. Aghajanian** (Armenia) said that Armenia's extensive economic reforms had paid off in terms of growth. Standards of living and wages had improved, unemployment had dropped and Armenia had become a member of the World Trade Organization. However, progress was unevenly distributed throughout the territory and more evident in urban areas. In order to spread the benefits of economic growth to each household, the Government had launched a rural development project reflecting the comparative and competitive advantages of each village. The programme was comprehensive, and the participation of local populations at all stages of development and implementation was crucial to its success and sustainability.

97. As in other countries with economies in transition, Armenia's emigrants had fled hardships triggered by economic collapse and blockade. However, in the previous two years, improved economic performance had reversed the outward migration flow. Transfers in the form of remittances from Armenian migrants had reached a level equivalent to six times the amount of ODA it received through all channels. Apart from the benefits to the country, however, the influx of foreign currency had caused the national currency to appreciate, affecting the competitiveness of the economy and exports. Moreover, since only 2 per cent of transfers were invested in business activities, the Government faced the challenge of creating conditions to convert such transfers into a source of direct investment. To that end, it had placed the issue on its cooperation agenda with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and was interested in pursuing it further through bilateral and multilateral dialogue.

98. A comprehensive study might reveal trends in migration and give new insights into the contribution of migrants to the host economies and the factors resulting in their irregular status. Armenia had launched a number of programmes to facilitate the reintegration of returning migrants into society as active contributors, and preliminary results were encouraging.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.